

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:KBROWN

10/1/73 EXT 21512

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195117

LIMDIS TOECO 98

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN ROME LONDON
TRIPOLI FROM PARIS 29 SEPTEMBER REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH DEMARCHE ON LIBYAN OIL NATIONALIZATION

1. BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, CALLED IN
ECONMIN THIS MORNING TO REPORT A DEMARCHE WHICH FRENCH
AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE OVER
THIS WEEKEND. BRUNET SAID FRANCE HAD BEEN MAINTAINING CONTACT
WITH LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH IT HAD ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS
EVEN THOUGH THE LIBYANS WERE NOT ALWAYS EASY TO TALK TO.
HE SAID AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELL THE LIBYAN
GOVERNMENT "WITH ALL THE TACT HE COULD POSSIBLY SUMMON"
THAT THE GOF BELIEVED THAT THE DATE OF OCTOBER 1 WHICH
LIBYA HAD SET AS THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMPANIES
OF THE 51 PERCENT NATIONALIZATION WAS NOT SACRED AND
THAT THE GOF HOPED THAT THE LIBYANS WOULD KEEP ON TALKING
BEYOND THAT DEADLINE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO ASKED TO EXPRESS
THE HOPE THAT LIFTINGS WOULD CONTINUE DURING THE TALKS.

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2. BRUNET SAID GOF WAS TAKING THIS INITIATIVE BECAUSE IT

BELIEVED THAT IN THIS CASE AS IN THE IRAQI CASE IT WAS IN A POSITION TO FACILITATE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FRENCH COMPANIES WERE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED THE GOF BELIEVED THAT FRANCE'S INTERESTS WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF THE DISPUTE WAS NOT SETTLED. IN THE FIRST PLACE LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY SHUT OFF SUPPLIES AND EVEN IF IT DIDN'T THE OIL WOULD BE RED AND THE FRENCH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BUY IT. SECONDLY, THERE WAS A DANGER THAT THE CONFLICT WOULD SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS WHERE THE FRENCH WERE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. BRUNET SAID THAT THE FRENCH BELIEVED THAT THE BEST THE COMPANIES COULD HOPE FOR WAS AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERMS OF COMPENSATION AND THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING IN A ATMOSPHERE OF CALM. HE ASKED THAT INFORMATION ABOUT FRENCH DEMARCHE BE CLOSELY HELD SINCE IF IT GOT OUT THIS COULD MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

3. ECONMIN THANKED BRUNET FOR THIS INFORMATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD BE INFORMED OF GOL REACTION TO FRENCH DEMARCHE. IRWIN UNQTE
KISSINGER

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